Amendments to the Claims:

After consideration of the claim amendments under Article 19, this listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) An extracorporeal adsorption method for removing harmful substances responsible of inducing sepsis caused by Gram-negative in a mammal, said extracorporeal adsorption method being effected by an adsorption column assembly, said adsorption column assembly comprising a column and an adsorption medium in the form of particles, the sedimented volume of said particles being at the most 80% of the volume of the column, said particles being characterised by carrying an affinity specific molecule with a specific affinity for the LPS portion of said Gram-negative bacteria, said method comprising treating blood obtained from said mammal by passing the blood through the adsorption column assembly at such a flow rate that a fluidised bed of the particles is formed.

2. (Previously Presented) An extracorporeal adsorption method for removing harmful substances responsible of inducing sepsis caused by Gram-negative or Gram-positive bacteria in a mammal, said extracorporeal adsorption method being effected by an adsorption column assembly, said adsorption column assembly comprising a column and an adsorption medium in the form of particles, the sedimented volume of said particles being at the most 80% of the volume of the column, said particles being characterised by carrying an affinity specific molecule with a specific affinity for:

i) the LPS portion of said Gram-negative bacteria, and/or

ii) Gram-positive bacteria or harmful substances derived from said Gram-positive bacteria, said method comprising treating blood obtained from said mammal by passing the blood through the adsorption column assembly at such a flow rate that a fluidised bed of the particles is formed.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein the treated blood is capable of being reinfused into the same mammal.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 1-3~~ claim 1, wherein the adsorption column assembly is adapted for fluidised bed adsorption, in particular stabilised fluidised bed adsorption.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the particles have a density of at least 1.3 g/ml and a mean diameter in the range of 5-1000 μm, such as a density of at least 1.5 g/ml and a mean diameter in the range of 5-300 μm, preferably a density of at least 1.8 g/ml and a mean diameter in the range of 5-150 μm, and most preferred a density of more than 2.5 g/ml and a mean diameter in the range of 5-75 μm.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the mammal is a human being.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the affinity specific molecule is selected from the group consisting of immunoglobulins, peptides, oligonucleotides, receptor proteins, antibiotics, and lectins.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein two or more different affinity specific molecules are present on particles within the adsorption medium.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 6 ~~or 7~~, wherein the affinity specific molecules are selected from immunoglobulins.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the affinity specific molecule is Polymyxin B.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according ~~any of the preceding claims~~ to claim 1, wherein the affinity specific molecule is selected from the group consisting of a Toll-like receptor, most preferably TLR4 or binding fragments thereof or multimeric arrangements thereof, CD14, MD2, TLR2 and LBP, and any combination thereof.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the sedimented volume of the particles is at the most 70% of the volume of the column, such as at the most 60% of the volume of the column, e.g. at the most 50% of the volume of the column.

13. (Previously Presented) Use of an adsorption medium for the preparation of a therapeutic adsorption column assembly for the continuos therapeutic treatment of sepsis caused by Gram-negative bacteria in a mammal by extracorporeal adsorption, said adsorption column assembly comprising (i) a vessel for continuos obtaining blood from said mammal, (ii) a column comprising the adsorption medium, the sedimented volume of said adsorption medium being at the most 80% of the volume of the column, said adsorption medium being characterised by carrying an affinity specific molecule with a specific affinity for the LPS portion of said Gram-negative bacteria, said column is treating the obtained blood by passing the blood through the adsorption column assembly at such a flow rate that a fluidised bed of the adsorption medium is formed, and (iii) another vessel which continuously delivers blood back to the patient.

14. (Previously Presented) Use of an adsorption medium for the preparation of a therapeutic adsorption column assembly for the therapeutic treatment of sepsis caused by Gram-negative or Gram-postive bacteria in a mammal by extracorporeal adsorption, said adsorption column assembly comprising (a) a vessel for continuos obtaining blood from said mammal, (b) a column and the adsorption medium, the sedimented volume of said adsorption medium being at the most 80% of the volume of the column, said adsorption medium being characterised by carrying an affinity specific molecule with a specific affinity for:

i) the LPS portion of said Gram-negative bacteria, and/or

ii) Gram-positive bacteria or harmful substances derived from said Gram-positive bacteria, said column is treating the obtained blood by passing the blood through the adsorption column assembly at such a flow rate that a fluidised bed of the adsorption medium is formed, and

(c) another vessel which continuously delivers blood back to the patient.

15. (Currently Amended) The use according claim 13 ~~or 14~~, wherein the flow rate of the blood through the column assembly is such that expansion ratio of the fluidised bed is at least 1.3, such as at least 1.5.

16. (Currently Amended) The use according to ~~any of the~~ claim 12~~-15~~, wherein the steps (a), (b) and (c) are preceded by a initial step by which a substance is first injected into the blood stream of the mammal.

17. (Currently Amended) The use according to ~~any of the claims 13-16~~ claim 13, wherein the mammal is a human being.

18. (Currently Amended) The use according to ~~any of the claims 13-17~~ claim 13, wherein the particles have a density of at least 1.3 g/ml and a mean diameter in the range of 5-1000 μm, such as a density of at least 1.5 g/ml and a mean diameter in the range of 5-300 μm, preferably a density of at least 1.8 g/ml and a mean diameter in the range of 5-150 μm, and most preferred a density of more than 2.5 g/ml and a mean diameter in the range of 5-75 μm.

19. (Currently Amended) A use according to ~~any of claims 11-18~~ claim 11, wherein the stabilised fluidised bed is placed in line with a switch capable of being activated when a blood substance reaches a pre-set value, said blood substance is monitored by a device, said device is placed in line with the blood circulation, said device sending the activating signal to the switch when said value is reached.

20. (Currently Amended) The use according to ~~any of the claims 13-19~~ claim 13, wherein the affinity specific molecule is selected from the group consisting of immunoglobulins, peptides, oligonucleotides, receptor proteins, antibiotics, and lectins.

21. (Currently Amended) The use according to ~~any of the claims 13-20~~ claim 13, wherein two or more different affinity specific molecules are present on particles within the adsorption medium.

22. (Currently Amended) The use according to claim 20 ~~or 21~~, wherein the affinity specific molecules are selected from immunoglobulins.

23. (Currently Amended) The use according to ~~any of the claims 20 or 21~~ claim 20, wherein the affinity specific molecule is Polymyxin B.

24. (Currently Amended) A use according to ~~claims 13-23~~ claim 13, wherein the affinity specific molecule is selected from the group consisting of a Toll-like receptor, most preferably TLR4 or binding fragments thereof or multimeric arrangements thereof, CD14, MD2, TLR2 and LBP, and any combination thereof.

25. (Currently Amended) The use according to ~~any of the claims 13-24~~ claim 13, wherein the sedimented volume of the particles is at the most 70% of the volume of the column, such as at the most 60% of the volume of the column, e.g. at the most 50% of the volume of the column.

26. (Currently Amended) The use according to ~~any of the claims 13-25~~ claim 13, wherein the flow rate is such that stabilised fluidised bed of the particles is formed.